Opening of a visa Office in Israel

19. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India is actively considering the opening of a Visa office in the Israeli capital, as reported in the Telegraph dated the 29th January, 1989;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the reasons which warranted a change in the policy of Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (PROF. K. K. TEWARI) : (a) to (c) the Government of India is not considering any proposal to open a visa office in Israel.

Proposal to Raise the DTC Fares

20. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to raise the fares in DTC buses in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) For improving the financial performance of DTC and reduction of their losses, various measures including rationalization of fares are under consideration.

(b) The detailed proposals have not yet been finalised.

Scheme for Concessional Train Journeys

21. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have launched a special round-tour scheme for concessional train journey, as a part of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centenary celebrations; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir. (b) The salient features of the scheme are as under:–

(i) The tickets issued under this scheme are termed as "Nehru Yatri Tickets" and have been introduced for one year with effect from 14th November, 1988, the centenary birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

(ii) These tickets have been issued for First and Second Classes.

(iii) Fare indicated on these tickets is inclusive of a concessional lump sum amount of Rs.50/- towards sleeper surcharges, reservation fees and superfast charges irrespective of the number of break journeys. No separate charges are payable on these counts.

(iv) Journey can be broken on these tickets without any distance restriction.

(v) The tickets are valid for 30 days from the date of commencement of first journey.

(vi) This ticket is also valid for Rajdhani and Shatabdi Express trains on payment of the difference of fare.

(vii) 61 itineraries touching the places of historical, cultural and religious importance have been drawn.

(viii) 25 originating stations of the itineraries have been authorised to issue these tickets.